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6. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a PERK polypeptide, a fragment of a PERK polypeptide having PERK activity, or a polypeptide having PERK activity, comprising a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of: (a) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of [SEQ ID NO:1], or a complement thereof under low, moderate or high stringency hybridization conditions wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a PERK polypeptide or a polypeptide having PERK activity; and (b) a nucleic acid molecule degenerate with respect to (a), wherein the nucleic molecule encodes a PERK polypeptide or a polypeptide having PERK activity.
9. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the PERK polypeptide comprises a PERK1 polypeptide.
14. (Amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a constitutive promoter sequence or an inducible promoter sequence, operatively linked so that the promoter enhances transcription of the nucleic acid molecule in a host cell.
19. (Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
23. (Amended) A plant, a plant part, a seed, a plant cell or progeny thereof comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 14.
28. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by and/or produced from the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.